



Claire Komisar

March 27, 1929 - May 23, 2026

Claire Komisar,

(née Kerns) Passed away peacefully on May 23, 2026, at the age of 97, in the arms of her daughter Maureen Luddy.

They were surrounded by her loving caregivers Villaflor (Flora) Moore and Rosalinda (Rosie) Sweet.

Flora and Rosie were her devoted caregivers for the past eight years, treating Claire like their own mother and becoming chosen sisters to Maureen. Their kindness and love for her will never be forgotten.

Claire was born on March 29, 1929, in Akron, Ohio, to parents Irwin and Frieda Kerns. The family moved to Milwaukee when she was just six months old.

Claire was president of her BBG chapter and attended the State BBYO convention in Madison during her senior year of high school, where she met Morton Komisar — the love of her life.

Mort had already graduated and was on leave from the army, brought in as a ringer to play in the AZA football game.

It was love at first sight.

They wrote letters while Mort served in the army, dated when he returned to college, and he pinned her with his AEPi fraternity pin. They were quickly engaged and married on June 25, 1950, sharing the most loving marriage for nearly 64 years until Mort's passing on January 9, 2014.

Claire is survived by her two children and their spouses, Maureen (David) Luddy and Martin (Gail) Komisar; grandchildren Noah Luddy, Randi (Eric) Schachter, and Bradley (Sarah) Komisar; and four great-grandchildren Jordan and Sloan Schachter and Simon and Allison Komisar. Further survived other nieces, nephews, relatives, and countless friends.

Claire loved worldwide travel, especially cruises, with her beloved Mort. They took incredible trips to India, Africa, Russia, South America, China, Europe, East Asia, the Caribbean, and everywhere in between.

She was proud to be a great shopper, finding treasures for her home and jewelry from around the world — and everything had a story to go with it.

Claire was president of her ORT chapter and a member of the JNF Sapphire Society. She and Mort were generous donors to numerous Jewish and Zionist charities, always striving to make the world a better place.

She was a wonderful friend to many, including the numerous remarkable people she met during her last ten years, while living at Chai Point.

She loved to play Mah Jongg, bridge, and bingo — especially chocolate bingo. In fact, she loved everything chocolate!

But most of all, she loved her family. From a young age she worked alongside family at Biltrite Furniture, the business founded by her father Irwin Kerns and his brother-in-law Sol Forman, originally established in Akron, Ohio, as an upholstery company.

Sol was married to Rose Forman, the sister of Claire's mother Frieda, making their families especially close. Each had one child — a daughter — so Claire grew up with her cousin Lucille (Forman) Frenkel as a sister, and spoke of her fondly in the final weeks of her life. Claire and Lucille helped at the store on a part-time basis when they were young.

Claire attended the University of Wisconsin–Madison for a year before getting married, then returned to college after raising her children.

She graduated from Mount Mary College with a degree in interior design in 1977.

She put her degree to beautiful use helping customers at the store, bringing each one her full attention to ensure they got exactly what they wanted and needed.

Even in her final years at Chai Point, she would try to sell new friends furniture.

Claire was a kind and loving soul, known for always complimenting people and telling them how much she loved them. She adored live entertainment — theater, musical performances, and every show she could sign up for — first at Century Village and later at Chai Point.

She had a serious case of FOMO and wouldn't miss a thing.

She had an especially close relationship with her daughter Maureen and her grandson Noah, whom she helped raise.

For the last 15 years of her life, she saw or spoke with Maureen every single day, cherishing every moment they shared. When Maureen was just 16, they began attending art festivals. They kept up that beloved tradition throughout the years, acquiring no small amount of unique clothing and jewelry along the way.

She loved color and brought color and joy wherever she went. She was a true Eishet Chayil — a Woman of Valor — and was almost always dressed in purple.

When she was six years old, she met Janice (Appel) Zamsky, and they remained the closest of friends throughout their lives until Janice's passing — sharing childhood adventures at Washington High School, and winters as snowbirds at Century Village in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

Her Hebrew name was Chaya, and she lived her life with joy to her very last breath.

A graveside service and burial will take place at Spring Hill Cemetery, 166 S Hawley Ct, on Monday, May 25, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., followed by a service, eulogies, and meal of consolation at the Rubenstein at Chai Point, 1400 N. Prospect Avenue. After return from the graveside service at approximately 11:30 AM - Noon. All are welcome at both the graveside service and gathering at Rubenstein.

Shiva will be held at Claire's apartment at Ovation Chai Point, 1400 N. Prospect Avenue, Apt. 701: Tuesday–Thursday 3–7 p.m. and Sunday, May

31, 3–6 p.m. Each day of Shiva will begin with a minyan at the Ovation synagogue before moving to the apartment.

Donations to Ovation Chai Point Fund are appreciated, <https://ovation.org/foundation/donate/>

To watch the graveside recording:

<https://youtu.be/5yPFpzqVHd0?si=1KV2rLM5SMtTumnp>

Previous Events

Service

MAY **25**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Spring Hill Cemetery
166 S. Hawley Ct.
Milwaukee, WI 53214

Shiva

MAY **25** to **31** (CT)

Chai Point
1400 N Prospect Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Shiva will be held at Claire's apartment at Ovation Chai Point, 1400 N. Prospect Avenue, Apt. 701: Tuesday–Thursday 3–7 p.m. and Sunday, May 31, 3–6 p.m. Each day of Shiva will begin with a minyan at the Ovation synagogue before moving to the apartment.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Blane Goodman Funeral Service, LLC - May 26 at 04:37 PM

JM

“ Claire and Mort were neighbors when I was growing up in the 1960's. I was just a kid but I remember their kindness. In my later years I would run into both of them mostly at the Marcus NorthShore Theater. We would always stop and chat. Usually the conversation was hilarious as they both had a wonderful sense of humor. But they always took an interest in how I was doing. They were both hard working honest people who genuinely cared about others. May their memory be for a blessing. Very sorry for your loss.
Jeff Marcus

Jeff Marcus - May 25 at 12:25 PM

ML

Thank you so much Jeff. I have such fond memories of the times we were neighbors and our families spent time together

Maureen Luddy - May 25 at 07:05 PM

HT

“ Claire was one of my favorites. We ate together daily. I'll miss her dreadfully. May her memory be a blessing.

Hedy Tick - May 24 at 05:25 PM

ML

She loved you also Hedy-from Maureen

Maureen Luddy - May 25 at 08:14 AM

DH

“ *Deepest sympathy on the loss of dear mother and grandmother, Claire. She was always so kind to me as a young teen when I spent sleepovers at their northwest side home. I will never forget her kindnesses. How blessed you all are to have such a mother and grandmother in your lives.*

Deborah Hacker - May 24 at 04:19 PM

“ Claire Komisar, (née Kerns) Passed away peacefully on May 23, 2026, at the age of 97. She was truly BILTRITE — and the best wife, mom, grandma, and great-grandma ever.

Claire was born on March 27, 1929, to Irwin and Frieda Kerns. She lived a beautiful, colorful-purple, vibrant, and joy-filled life centered around family, friendship, community, travel, and the family business she cherished for nearly her entire life — BILTRITE Furniture. Her legacy lives on through our family, the business, and everyone who had the privilege of knowing her. She was a true trailblazer in the furniture industry during a time often known as the “good old boys club,” and her influence continues today as BILTRITE proudly remains women-led through multiple generations.

Claire met the love of her life, Morton “Mort” Komisar and It was love at first sight. They married in 1950 and shared nearly 64 wonderful years together until Mort’s passing in 2014.

Claire attended the University of Wisconsin–Madison before later earning her interior design degree from Mount Mary College. She brought that talent and passion directly into BILTRITE, helping customers to love their home.

To Claire, BILTRITE was never just a store — it was family. She loved being a part of the growing business through four generations and was incredibly proud of her husband Mort, son Marty, daughter Maureen, daughter-in-law Gail, granddaughter Randi, grandson Brad, granddaughter-in-law Sarah, and the continued family legacy being carried forward today.

Claire was an incredible mother to Marty and Maureen, always supporting, encouraging, and loving her family unconditionally. Alongside Mort, she helped mentor and shape Randi, Bradley, and Noah from a young age — teaching them the values of family, hard work, kindness, and giving back. Randi and Brad especially

treasured the years they worked alongside Claire at BILTRITE, where she taught them not only how to sell furniture, but how to treat people.

She is survived by her son Martin (Gail) Komisar, daughter Maureen (David) Luddy, grandchildren Randi (Eric) Schachter, Bradley (Sarah) Komisar, Noah Luddy, and great-grandchildren Jordan and Sloan Schachter and Simon and Allison Komisar.

Claire's family would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to her devoted caregivers, Flora Moore and Rosie Macapagal, whose love and care over the past eight years meant the world to Claire and her family.

A graveside service and burial will take place Monday, May 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Spring Hill Cemetery, 166 S. Hawley Ct. Shiva information and additional details are available through the funeral home.

In honor of Claire's lifelong dedication to BILTRITE Furniture and the family business she helped build for nearly a century, memorial donations may be made to the American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame. Additional information can be found at homefurnishingshalloffame.com

The family will see friends on Sunday 5/31/26 at The Shul, 8825 N Lake Dr, Bayside, WI 53217, from 12-2 PM.

Obituary submitted by Randi Schachter.

Blane Goodman - May 24 at 10:34 AM

ML

Donarions are preferred and appreciated to Ovation Chai Point Fund , it is where she thrived for the last ten years and loved everyone and what she would have wanted <https://ovation.org/foundation/donate/>

Maureen Luddy - May 25 at 08:39 AM

MN

“ May her memory be a blessing ❤️

Meredith and Barry Newman - May 24 at 10:32 AM

JG

“ Claire was always nice to me. I always like Claire. She was a very nice woman rest in peace. Claire rest in peace.

Jayand Cindy Goldman - May 24 at 09:48 AM

LT

“ For many years, we were in the wheeler Dealer Stock together where each month we hosted the evening. Coming to Chair and Mort's home was always an event. Wonderful food, beautiful surroundings and lively and sometimes heated discussions. It was always great. May her memory be a besssing. Lil Teplinsky

Lillian Teplinsky - May 24 at 09:11 AM